

those who are deceased. Unless we take action, family members will continue to suffer from the misuse of their loved one's personal information.

My legislation, the Identity Theft Protection for the Deceased Act, requires that the federal government inform each national credit bureau when an individual passes away. In turn, the credit bureaus will flag the histories of those who have deceased and potential creditors will know not to issue lines of credit or new loans to those attempting to misuse their personal information.

Mr. Speaker, I urge that we act to stop this vicious form of identity theft and protect the relatives of America's deceased.

TRIBUTE TO MARY WILLIAMS

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated employee of the State of South Carolina with whom I have had the extraordinary pleasure of working with as she prepares to retire from public service. Mary Lee Williams has served for more than twenty-five years on the staff of the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission (SHAC).

In 1983, during my tenure as South Carolina Human Affairs Commissioner, I selected Mary as the agency's employee of the year. My comments at the time were "being a receptionist in any office is difficult, but when that difficulty is compounded by having to serve as a first point of contact to people who feel that they have been unfairly treated in the workplace, the job becomes nearly impossible." I commented in my recognition that Mary "has over the years demonstrated that she has the capacity to do the nearly impossible." I know the same is true today.

Mary Williams is a native of Richland County and is a product of its public schools. She joined us at SHAC in 1980, where she continues to serve ably as an Information Specialist. Her demeanor is friendly and helpful, and she always treated those seeking the Commission's help with dignity and respect.

Mary draws her strength of character and her strong work ethic from her faith. She has been a member of Bethel Baptist Church for fifty-three years. There she lends her talents to singing in the Musical Choir, serving in the Women's Ministry, and teaching Sunday School classes.

She has a beautiful voice and has been a member of Columbia, South Carolina's Capital City Chorale for a number of years. The Chorale has performing on NBC's Today Show and I have had the pleasure of sponsoring them in Washington, DC on two occasions. She also shared her talents as a soloist during a Black History Month program I keynoted at the Dorn Veterans Hospital in Columbia, and has been awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the Veterans Administration for her service.

Mary has also found time to serve her community as a volunteer. She has donated her services to the Meals-On-Wheels program for 17 years. For five years, she served on SHAC's United Way Annual Campaign team. She has been an active member of both the

National Association of Human Rights Workers and the South Carolina State Employees Association.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mary Ann Williams on her retirement from the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission. She is a wonderful example of a dedicated public servant who has made a true difference in the lives of others. On a personal note, I thank Mary for her friendship and support over the years. I wish her the best and Godspeed in her future endeavors.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT ACT OF 2006

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I introduce the District of Columbia Medicaid Reimbursement Act of 2006 today to raise the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP), the federal contribution from the federal government, to 75 percent from 70 percent and to reduce the District's unique role as the only city that pays the full local cost of Medicaid, a program that is carried by states and counties in our country. New York City, the jurisdiction that powers the economy of New York State, contributes a 25 percent local share to Medicaid while the state pays 25 percent, less than the District's statutorily mandated 30 percent contribution. I introduce this bill because the District's continuing responsibility for most Medicaid costs that are typically borne by entire states is a major component of the District's structural deficit and threatens the stability of the city itself.

The District's Chief Financial Officer reports that rapidly increasing Medicaid costs put the city at risk. In FY 2005, these costs accounted for \$1.4 billion or 22 percent of the city's gross funds budget. Total program costs have risen 42 percent since 1999, and are projected to increase by another \$39 million this year. Yet the District, unlike other large cities which have lost significant populations, has no state and no state economy to share this burden. More than 25 percent of District children and adults are enrolled in Medicaid compared to 12 percent in Maryland and just 9 percent in Virginia. On average, the District spends over \$7,000 per enrollee, while Maryland and Virginia spend \$5,509 and \$5,177, respectively, reflecting serious health conditions that are concentrated among big city residents.

The D.C. Medicaid Reimbursement Act of 2006 is the seventh in the "Free and Equal D.C." series. This series of bills addresses inappropriate and often unequal restrictions placed only on the District and no other U.S. jurisdiction. Although today's bill cannot address the entire structural problem that the District faces because the city is not part of a state, the bill would eliminate the greater percentage the District pays than any city by allowing a 25 percent city contribution, rather than a contribution even greater than New York City.

In 1997, as part of the Balanced Budget Act, Congress recognized that state costs were too costly for anyone city to shoulder. To

alleviate the resulting financial crisis, Congress increased the federal Medicaid contribution to the District from 50 to 70 percent, and took responsibility for a few state costs—prisons and courts—relieving the immediate burden, but the city continues to carry most state costs.

In 1997, a formulaic error in the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) allotment reduced even the 70 percent FMAP share, and as a result, the District received only \$23 million instead of the \$49 million due. I was able to secure a technical correction to the Balanced Budget Act of 1999, partially increasing the annual allotment to \$32 million from FY 2000 forward. I appreciate that last year, Congress responded to my effort to get an additional annual increase of \$20 million in the budget reconciliation bill, bringing D.C.'s Medicaid reimbursement payments to \$57 million as intended by the Balanced Budget Act. This amount did not reimburse the District for the years a federal error denied the city part of its federal contribution, and in any case, of course, was not intended to meet the structural problem this bill partially addresses.

The District has taken important steps on its own to reduce Medicaid costs through greater efficiency, and to treat and prevent conditions that prove costly when hospitalization or expensive treatments become necessary. The District Medicaid agency won federal recognition as one of only two Medicaid programs nationwide to exceed the federal government's child immunization goal for school-age children at 95 percent, and improved its fraud surveillance, recovering \$15 million in fraudulently billed funds. The city's novel D.C. Health Care Alliance, for which federal approval is pending, would allow coverage of residents and provide more early and preventative care, avoiding huge Medicaid costs when health conditions become severe and Medicaid becomes the only option.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this increase that will help my city's most needy residents.

IN APPRECIATION OF MS. CATHY SAYRE

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise before you today in appreciation of an educator who has devoted 39 years of her life to bettering the lives of our children. Ms. Cathy Sayre is truly worthy of recognition for her dedication to Solley Elementary in Anne Arundel County.

Ms. Sayre is a graduate of Western Maryland College. Shortly after earning her degree she informed her parents she did not want to be a lab technician as planned, rather she would pursue a career in education; we are certainly glad she did. Ms. Sayre has been an instrumental part of the developmental process of many children.

As an elementary teacher, Ms. Sayre taught first, second, third, and fourth grades as well as a combination of second and third grades. She has educated over 1,200 students in her career. She is admired by peers and adored by her students.

Teachers are often the unsung heroes of the education field. They play a critical role in

the life of a child. Educators instill wisdom in the minds of children; they lead our nation's youth into the journey of adulthood. John F. Kennedy said, "Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation."

Ms. Sayre has touched the lives of her students. Elementary teachers have a special gift. They leave a lasting impression on our children, which is just the beginning of their educational careers. At a very early age, they learn what skills are necessary to grow and progress in the future. Teachers like Ms. Sayre leave a lasting legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join with me in thanking Ms. Cathy Sayre for the outstanding work she has done as an educator. The students of Solley Elementary are very lucky to have such a kind and compassionate person who is dedicated to bettering their lives.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5427), making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes:

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to the Flake amendment regarding the GEDAC Packaged Gas Engine-Driven Heat Pump Development. I appreciate the attention that my fellow Arizonan has brought to the issue of so-called "earmarks." I share his passion for limited, responsible government. We have seen instances in which inappropriate or even corrupt projects have been funded in appropriation, authorization and tax bills and we must ensure that all of the bills we pass—appropriations bills, authorization bills and tax bills—fund only projects that can stand up to scrutiny.

However, the GEDAC Heat Pump project is a project that deserves our support and will help us to find solutions to our country's energy and water needs. Specifically, this project will allow for the continued development of natural gas-based heat pump technology that saving both energy and water resources. When completed, this will be the first small packaged system available in the United States. The technology is broadly applicable throughout the country, and it provides a number of benefits, including greater energy efficiency and water savings. The technology will not only save energy but will save water, which is important to Arizona. If successful, it could displace central station power generation which uses approximately a gallon of water per kilowatt generated. It is in line with the President's efforts to address climate change by developing technologies that having significantly reduced greenhouse gas emissions. It also is in line with the President's efforts to utilize domestic energy resources.

None of the money in this particular project goes to private industry. Every dime of it goes to the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). ORNL has a sophisticated facility for testing that private industry cannot afford to replicate every time it has a new idea.

Mr. Chairman, I understand the gentleman's concern that we fund only those projects that can withstand serious scrutiny. But this project stands up to scrutiny and deserves our support. I urge a no vote on the Flake amendment.

CONGRATULATING THE PACE HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE 5-A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize and congratulate the Pace High School baseball team on winning the Florida State championship 5-A title.

The 19 Pace High School varsity baseball players secured an 11-7 win over Tampa Hillsborough on May 18, 2006, to claim the 5-A State championship. It is Pace's first championship since 1990 and their third State championship over all. On the way to claiming this hard earned title, Coach Charlie Warner rallied the team on three separate occasions, using the Patriots skills and talents to once again take the leading score. "I do not know if there are words to describe it," Warner said. "To come out here and coach this game and see some great talent . . . It's just a real pleasure to be able to do all of this."

The community support from this rapidly growing city was unparalleled. As the Patriots made their way home the next day, Patriot Boulevard, which circles around the school and baseball field, was lined with hundreds of fans dressed in red, white, and blue to welcome home the champs. For 10 of the ball players, this was their last victory at Pace High School; these 10 seniors graduated the next evening. I have no doubt that they will continue to inspire and make positive impacts on those around them.

Their resiliency has not only made me proud, but also their families, friends and community proud as well. As Pace High School Principal Frank Lay always says, "It's great to be a Pace Patriot," and it's also great to represent the Patriots.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to congratulate the Pace High baseball team on their State victory and thank him for representing Santa Rosa County in such a first-class manner.

THE WORLD HUNGER CRISIS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Mr. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, today I chaired a hearing to examine the enormous need for food aid around the world, particularly in sub-

Saharan Africa which has the greatest need. As an essential element for life, the assurance of food availability must necessarily be a focal point of our humanitarian assistance programs and at the forefront of our interventions on behalf of those in the greatest need. While the extent of that need can at times be overwhelming, we must keep in mind the verses of Matthew 25, "as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me," and "as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me."

Last August, I, along with Greg Simpkins of the Africa Subcommittee staff, visited Kalma and Mukjar refugee camps in South and West Darfur. We saw first hand how food aid was making the difference between life and death for the thousands of people in the camps. We spoke with many people whose lives had been utterly devastated by the ravages of war, but who were keeping hope alive thanks to the gifts of international humanitarian aid and food aid.

However, our visit to these camps raised the question as to what the Government of Sudan, as well as other developing country governments, are going to do about contributing to the elimination of hunger by opening their own stocks of food or by facilitating, rather than hampering, the delivery of food to hungry people in their countries. In Sudan, the government has not only failed to contribute to the feeding of its own people, but has actually interfered with the supply of food to those in need in the Darfur camps like the ones we visited. Moreover, the Government of Sudan placed a commercial embargo on Kalma camp while we were there that prevented the sale of food and other necessary items to those able to buy them in the camps. We in the developed world should help feed those in need, but it is also the responsibility of the governments in question to respond to the needs of their own people.

The UN World Food Program has announced that almost 731,000 metric tons of food will be needed this year to feed the 6.1 million people caught in the conflict in Southern Sudan and Darfur. Over 89,000 metric tons is needed in Eastern Chad for Sudanese refugees, Chadian nationals adversely affected by the influx of refugees, and a contingency reserve of six months for the refugees. An estimated 6.25 million people in the Horn of Africa face a severe humanitarian crisis this year resulting primarily from successive seasons of failed rains in that region. The World Food Program has sent out appeals for approximately 1.6 million metric tons of food aid for the Horn of Africa and the rest of the sub-Saharan.

This does not include, of course, the emergency food needs of peoples in other parts of the world, including Haiti, North Korea, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Indonesia.

It is important to keep in mind that behind these mind-boggling numbers are real men, women and children, people like you and me, individuals who are suffering not only the present pangs of hunger but who will have to live with the long-term effects of mal- and under-nutrition. There are also those for whom the lack of food exacerbates the cruel effects of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, thereby increasing the likelihood of death. This is the reason why it is so important for us to examine the crisis of world hunger, and to continue to direct our efforts to address it.